Hydrologist

**Job Description:** Research the distribution, circulation, and physical properties of underground and surface waters; study the form and intensity of precipitation, its rate of infiltration into the soil, movement through the earth, and its return to the ocean and atmosphere (the water cycle).

**What do Hydrologists do?**

* Evaluate data and provide recommendations regarding hydroelectric power plants, irrigation systems, flood warning systems, and waste treatment facilities.
* Study and analyze the physical aspects of the earth in terms of the hydrological components, including atmosphere, hydrosphere, and interior structure.
* Administer programs designed to ensure the proper sealing of abandoned wells.
* Install, maintain, and calibrate instruments, such as those that monitor water levels, rainfall, and sediments.
* Answer questions and provide technical assistance and information to contractors or the public regarding issues such as well drilling, code requirements, hydrology, and geology.
* Measure and graph phenomena such as lake levels, stream flows, and changes in water volumes.
* Investigate properties, origins, and activities of glaciers, ice, snow, and permafrost.
* Apply research findings to help minimize the environmental impacts of pollution, waterborne diseases, erosion, and sedimentation.

**Outlook: Green Job**

Average Salary - $35.42 hourly, $73,670 annual

Projected Job Openings – 3,800 over the next 10 years

**Your Interests:**

* Do you enjoy science?
* Do you enjoy math?
* Would you like to make and study maps?
* Do you like to design things?

**Education/Program of Study:**

* Bachelor’s Degree in Hydrology or a major that deals with hydrology plus additional coursework in geology or soil science.
* Many hydrologists also earn Master’s or Doctoral degrees as well.